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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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EP 711 (Sub No. 1)

November 11, 2016

242124

Mr. Daniel Elliott, Chairman
Mrs. Deb Miller, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Ann D. Begeman, Board Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 23, 2016
Part of
Public Record

Subject: Docket Ex Parte No. 711

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

As the State Senator representing Livingston County (Southeast Michigan), I wanted to offer some comments relating to the Surface Transportation Board's proposed rules and how they impact businesses across Michigan.

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry. It is critical that businesses have reliable and uninterrupted access to efficient freight transportation to ensure products are able to compete nationally and globally. The proposed regulations, which would require railroads to provide their competitors with access to their rail lines, would compromise the efficiency of the national rail system and slow the overall movement of goods across the nation.

Businesses, especially small businesses, rely on swift, predictable shipping options to meet their customers' requirements. By recommending that railroads comply with these regulations, the STB is likely to jumpstart a chain reaction that constricts business activity. This is not just discriminatory toward the railroads, it is also unfair to the businesses, small and large, that form the backbone of the American economy. When those businesses suffer, so do the local communities that surround them.

I urge the board to carefully consider the potentially disruptive effects of these proposed regulations and the impact they would have on businesses across the nation – and right here in Michigan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Hune
State Senator